

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 OPR-02 SCS-03

DHA-02 CU-02 IO-10 /120 W

----- 062441

R 300900Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6926

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

ATHENS 5610

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASH DC

CIA WASH DC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON: CHANGE IN BUSINESS ATTITUDES

REF: BEIRUT 13198

1. WITH ENCROACHMENT OF VIOLENCE ON PREVIOUSLY SAFE
AREAS WHERE FOREIGNERS FREQUENTED, ATTITUDE OF FOREIGN
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BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS CHANGED RAPIDLY IN RECENT DAYS.

MOST FOREIGN FIRMS THAT A WEEK OR TWO AGO WERE
WILLING TO GIVE BEIRUT THE
BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT HAVE NOW AT LEAST TEMPORARILY
EVACUATED PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS OR ARE IN THE
PROCESS OF DOING SO. INTENSITY OF VIOLENCE HAS
REINFORCED PROSPECT OF ITS CONTINUATION, AND INTER-
NATIONAL FIRMS WHOSE TOP LOCAL MANAGEMENT IS NOT LEBAN-
ESE APPEAR TO BE MORE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING PERMAN-
ENT RELOCATION. THE PROBLEM STILL REMAINS OF
"WHERE".

2. PART OF ANSWER, AN AUB ECONOMIC HISTORIAN BELIEVES,
MAY BE EMIGRATION FROM LEBANON. HE ARGUES THAT
ALTHOUGH SOME BUSINESSES MAY BE ABLE TO WORK OUT OF
EUROPE, A LARGE NUMBER WILL STILL FEEL CONSTRAINED
TO MAINTAIN AN ARABIC PRESENCE. AS FIRMS ARE
PINCHED BY LACK OF COMPETENT PERSONNEL AND SERVICES
IN OTHER ARABIC CITIES, THEY WILL HIRE LEBANESE--
SKILLED, POLYGLOT, CULTURED IN WESTERN WAYS -- TO OPERATE THEIR
NEW OFFICES. THUS HE EXPECTS CONTINUED VIOLENCE TO
STEM THE FOREIGN WORKER IMMIGRATION WHICH HAS BEEN
CHARACTERISTIC OF RECENT YEARS AND CAUSE LEBANESE
EMIGRATION OF SKILLED LABOR AND MANAGERIAL TALENT.
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

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